

INSIDER'S NEWSLETTER

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CPYRGHT

EMERGENCY AID TO CUBA? The Kennedy administration will extend a helping hand to hurricane-torn Cuba--if it can arrange to be pushed into this action. Attorney James B. Donovan, who negotiated the drugs-for-prisoners swap, is involved again, this time retained by the American Friends Service Committee, who want to send help to victims of Hurricane Flora. While the Administration would like to go along, White House advisers feel that JFK cannot afford to look like the initiator of a move to bail out Castro. The test-ban treaty and decision to sell wheat to the Russians have already made him vulnerable to "soft-on-Communism" charges, they say, and a move to help Cuba would be just too much. The strategy: Kennedy will approve humanitarian steps to help the Cubans if those who urge them can arrange for major religious groups in the U.S. to join together and demand such action, with as much publicity as possible.

The religious groups are being lined up now for a "spontaneous," united plea to the White House.